

We have challenged that soft bigotry. We say in this country, every child can learn—every child—not just some, not a select few, not those who may live in the nice suburban districts, but every child can learn.

And then it says that in return for receiving Federal money, we want to know. You see, in return for receiving Federal money, we expect local districts and States to show us whether or not each child is learning.

And when we find the fact that some children are not learning, we must correct problems early, before it's too late. Everybody counts in America. Each child matters in this country. To make sure we have a better America, no child—not one single child—needs be left behind.

I believe this Nation is strong in its diversity. We love our freedom. It's an incredibly great nation. And out of the evil done to our country on September the 11th, 2001, will come incredible good. That's what you must know about our Nation. Out of the evil done to America can come some great good.

If we stay tough and firm and strong, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for people here at home; we can achieve peace in the world. And by being—by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, we can achieve a better tomorrow. We can work together to eradicate the pockets of hopelessness, loneliness, and despair. People can fight evil by doing some good, by putting your arm around a lost soul and saying, "I love you. My fellow American, I love you."

There is no question in my mind, because of our strength, diversity, because of the values we hold, that we will be a stronger and more compassionate and better nation.

I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate this important month. It is an honor for me to welcome you to the White House. I appreciate so very much your contributions to our country.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Carlos Ponce, Jaci Velasquez, Jennifer Pena, and Gian Marco; Juan Jose Bremer Martino, Mexican Ambassador to the United States; entertainer Emilio Estefan; and Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek. The Office of

the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Message to the Congress Extending the Period of Production of the Naval Petroleum Reserve**

*October 9, 2002*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 201(3) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)), I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves for a period of 3 years from April 5, 2003, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production.

Enclosed is a copy of the report investigating the necessity of continued production of the reserves as required by section 201(3)(c)(2)(B) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. In light of the findings contained in the report, I certify that continued production from the Naval Petroleum Reserves is in the national interest.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
October 9, 2002.

### **Proclamation 7606—Columbus Day, 2002**

*October 9, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

In August 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Palos, Spain, embarking on a westward voyage and intending to establish a new trade route from Spain to the Far East. With three ships and a crew of approximately 100 men, he journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean. Instead of finding a new route to the Indies, Columbus discovered the Bahama Islands. Today, more than five centuries later, Americans continue to celebrate Columbus' bold expedition and recognize his pioneering achievements as an enduring symbol of imagination, courage, and perseverance.

Columbus brought European settlers to North America and helped establish a new era of world exploration during his four journeys to the "New World." In the years following his voyage of discovery, others such as John Cabot, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan followed Columbus' example to explore and discover new lands, peoples, and cultures.

Today, Columbus' spirit of innovation and discovery flourishes in America as we seek to advance knowledge and ensure prosperity and hope for all people. We challenge our young men and women particularly to reach for all their dreams as the great explorers of the past did.

In commemoration of Columbus' remarkable journey 510 years ago, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2002, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 10, and

it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

### **Remarks on House of Representatives Action on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force in Iraq**

*October 10, 2002*

I would like to thank the Members of the House of Representatives, just as I thanked Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt a few minutes ago, for the very strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force in Iraq if it becomes necessary.

The House debate was conducted in the best traditions of the United States Congress. It was spirited; it was civil; and it was informed. This is a debate and a decision that all Americans can be proud of.

I'm also pleased with the progress being made in the Senate, and I look forward to a final vote soon.

The House of Representatives has spoken clearly to the world and to the United Nations Security Council: The gathering threat of Iraq must be confronted fully and finally. Today's vote also sends a clear message to the Iraqi regime: It must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions, or it will be forced to comply. There are no other options for the Iraqi regime. There can be no negotiations. The days of Iraq acting as an outlaw state are coming to an end.

The United States is committed to helping make the world more peaceful and more just. We are committed to freedom for all. We're also committed to protecting human dignity, and today's vote is an important step toward fulfilling those great American commitments.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.